



Education & Community Resource Guide



Special Education/Disability

Organization	Description	Website	Contact Information
Advocates for Justice and Education	The mission of Advocates for Justice and Education is to educate parents, youth and community about the laws governing public education, specifically for children with special needs. We seek to empower youth and parents to be effective advocates on behalf of their children to ensure that they receive an appropriate education. It is also our mission to make the public aware of the consequences of institutional negligence of children with or without disabilities and to promote school accountability.	http://www.aje-dc.org/	(202) 678-8060
American University -- Disability Rights Law Clinic	The DRLC is a two-semester clinic in which law students represent clients and their families in a variety of matters related to disability law and people with disabilities (both mental and physical). A significant focus of the DRLC is on examining circumstances in which clients with disabilities are wrongly assumed to lack physical or mental capacity to participate in society to the same extent as people without disabilities. The DRLC represents clients in special education matters in Washington, DC; admission/commitment cases (as either counsel or guardian ad litem) before the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Branch of the Family Court of DC Superior Court; cases arising under Titles I-III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, regarding discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, state and local services and public accommodations; grievance proceedings within the DC Department of Mental Health; guardianship proceedings; transactional matters, such as home purchases and applications for 501 (c)(3) status; immigration matters; and so on.	https://www.wcl.american.edu/clinical/disability.cfm	202-274-4000
Children's Law Center	Nonprofit corporation providing free legal services to children, families and foster caregivers in the District of Columbia.	http://childrenslawcenter.org	202-467-4900
DC Association for Special Education	DCASE is an alliance of nonpublic and charter schools that provide special education services to students from the District of Columbia. Members are dedicated to improving educational opportunities for all DC students with disabilities. Improving special education in every school – DC Public Schools, nonpublic and charter – will benefit all students.	http://dcase.org/	202-615-3070
DC Public Charter School Board -- Special Education	Our goal is to ensure that students and families in Washington, DC have access to quality public charter school education. We do that by setting tough academic	http://www.dcpsb.org/report/special-education	(202) 328- 2660



Education & Community Resource Guide



	standards, using a comprehensive charter application review process and effective oversight, providing meaningful support and actively involving parents, school leaders, the community and policy makers.		
DC Special Education Cooperative	The Co-op fills a unique community need in DC by working with teachers, school leaders, and across charter schools to improve educational services for students with disabilities. By pooling resources between independent charter schools, the Co-op also acts as a “central office” for DCPCS spread throughout the city serving a diverse range of students. We provide services in four activity areas:	http://specialedcoop.org	470-222-3309
DCPS - Office of Special Education	The Office of Special Education aspires to be recognized and respected as a leader in urban special education. We are determined to do whatever it takes to ensure that students with disabilities become successful adults holding good jobs, living independently and engaging in the community.	http://dcps.dc.gov/specialeducation	202-442-4800
DCPS -- Special Education Resources for Parents	We’re committed to helping all students become successful adults holding good jobs, living independently and engaging in the community. An important component of achieving these goals is ensuring that our schools are inclusive schools that can serve the needs of all our students.	http://dcps.dc.gov/page/special-education-resources-parents	(202) 442-5885
National Association of Parents with Children in Special Education	The National Association of Parents with Children in Special Education (NAPCSE) is a national membership organization dedicated to rendering all possible support and assistance to parents whose children receive special education services, both in and outside of school. NAPCSE was founded for parents with children with special needs to promote a sense of community and provide a national forum for their ideas.	http://www.napcse.org/	
OSSE - Office of Dispute Resolution	The Office of Dispute Resolution within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is responsible for the conduct of special education due process hearings.	http://osse.dc.gov/service/office-dispute-resolution-odr	202-698-3819
OSSE - OSSE Specialized Education	OSSE’s Division of Specialized Education (DSE) is responsible for overseeing the development and promulgation of state policy governing special education; monitoring LEAs for compliance with IDEA as well as other federal and local regulations and court-ordered consent decrees; allocation and administration of IDEA grant funds to LEAs and other public agencies; provision of training and technical assistance to LEAs; and investigation and resolution of state complaints relating to special education.	http://osse.dc.gov/service/specialized-education	202-741-0227
Pacer Center	The mission of PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights) is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with	http://www.pacer.org/	1-800-537-2237



Education & Community Resource Guide



	disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.		
School Talk	SchoolTalk is a DC-based non-profit organization that brings special education dispute prevention and early dispute resolution programs to DC schools. We work with school personnel and the parents or guardians of special education students to help ensure that everyone works collaboratively toward the goal of securing Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities.	www.schooltalkdc.org	202-907-6887
SpecialEducationGuide.com	Parents and educators know that children with special needs have gifts and talents—it's just a matter of unleashing their full potential, and making sure that their parents and teachers have the right information, tools and support to help them. That's where Special Education Guide comes in. We are your go-to resource for mastering the terminology, procedures and best practices in special education.	http://www.specialeducationguide.com/	
Took-Crowell Institute for At-Risk Youth	UDC David A. Clarke School of Law students and faculty supervisors in the Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic provide representation in special education, school discipline, and exclusion cases.	http://www.law.udc.edu/?page=JuvenileClinic	202-274-7314
University Legal Services Protection & Advocacy Program	University Legal Services is a private, non-profit organization that serves as the District of Columbia's federally mandated protection and advocacy system for the human, legal and service rights of people with disabilities. Services provided by ULS under the protection and advocacy grants include information and referral; education and training; investigation of reported or suspected instances of abuse or neglect; legal counsel; technical assistance, and litigation services; and technical assistance regarding legislative and policy concerns. All services are offered free of charge to eligible individuals in accordance with ULS' available resources and policies.	http://www.uls-dc.org/PAP.htm	jbrown@uls-dc.org